



ORGANISATION MONDIALE CONTRE LA TORTURE
WORLD ORGANIZATION AGAINST TORTURE
ORGANIZACION MUNDIAL CONTRA LA TORTURA
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Case IDN/TMP 120499

The International Secretariat of OMCT requests your URGENT intervention in the following situation in East Timor/Indonesia.

Brief description of the situation

The International Secretariat of OMCT has just been informed that between 25 and 45 people were killed in the town of Liquica, 30 kilometers west of Dili, capital of East Timor and at least 8 were injured and one was subjected to torture in the Hamlet of Fatubelete, village of Vatubou, sub-district of Maurara and Mauboke in East Timor.

According to the East Timor Human Rights Centre (ETHRC), member of the OMCT network, on April 6 1999, members of the Besi Merah Putih (a paramilitary group) and Indonesian troops killed between 25 to 45 civilians with guns and hand grenades. Bishop Carlos Belo has confirmed that 25 dead bodies have been found. The killings took place in the church of Liquica where as many as 2000 civilians were seeking refuge from intimidation and violence at the hands of paramilitary groups in neighboring districts. A further 5 civilians were killed at a priest's residence in the town. Another source has stated that rather than trying to stop the violence, the police allegedly participated in the hunt.

Thirteen of the people killed have been identified as follows :

1. Felisberto dos Santos ;
2. Agostinho dos Santos ;
3. Laurindo da Costa Goncalves ;
4. Herminio (no surname), aged 34 ;
5. Francisco, aged 25, (no surname) ;
6. Julio, (no surname) aged 25 ;
7. Joanico de Sa Freitas ;
8. Jacinto da Costa, aged 20 ;
9. Ilidio dos Santos, aged 20 ;
10. Gil Tiago, aged 20 ;
11. Victor (no surname) ;
12. Augusto Mouzinho ;
13. Manuel Lisboa, aged 20.

Raimiro dos Santos Ximenes, and Lucas Soares have been identified as two of the injured people in the same incident.

According to the ETHRC, this attack is part of ongoing acts of harassment and violence against civilians, which started two days earlier. On April 4 1999, at 7 a.m., the paramilitary group, Besi Merah Putih, supported by the military, shot civilians from the Hamlet of Fatubelete, village of Vatubou, sub-district of Maurara and Mauboke, in the border between Maubara and Liquica.

As a result of this attack, eight people were severely injured. There are unconfirmed reports alleging the deaths of other persons. The people injured have been identified as follows :

1. Manuel Flores, aged 23, fisherman, sustained injuries on both knees;
2. Tomas de Jesus, aged 26, farmer, injured in the lower abdomen and has bladder damage ;
3. Francisco Xavier, aged 26, farmer, abdominal and intestinal damage ;
4. Jaimito dos Santos, aged 26, farmer, injuries on his left leg and his right hand has been broken ;

All four men are seeking operations in the government hospital in Dili.

5. Manuel Caldiera, aged 27, farmer and Joao da Silva Alexio farmer, both have broken left hands ;
6. Paulina de Jesus, aged 21, housewife carrying a three-month-old baby, was injured with a machete.

Among the people injured, at least one victim is a minor (see Urgent Appeal Case IDN/TMP 120499.CC released today).

These people are receiving treatment at a Catholic Polyclinic in Dili.

According to the ETHRC, following this attack, Crisanto Oliveira was tortured by members of KODIM (District Military Command). No additional information has been received of his case.

Remarks

The International Secretariat of OMCT is gravely concerned by the escalation of violence in East Timor, in particular, human rights violations perpetrated by paramilitary groups, believed to be armed and trained by the Indonesian military. These attacks seem to be related with an apparent intention by some members of the Indonesian military to sabotage peace efforts. According to reports, violence has substantially escalated in East Timor since Indonesian authorities stated in January that they would grant East Timor independence if they reject wide-ranging autonomy.

Action requested

Please write to the Indonesian authorities urging them to :

- i. guarantee an impartial and exhaustive inquiry into the aforementioned incidents, including the links between the military, police and paramilitary groups, identify those responsible, bring them to trial, and apply the penal, civil, and/or administrative sanctions provided by law;
- ii. provide immediate, adequate and free medical care to all injured people and ensure to them as well as to the families of the killed people adequate restitution, compensation, and rehabilitation ;
- iii. allow immediate access into all areas of East Timor to UN human rights monitors and international and local human rights non-governmental organizations, in order to ensure human rights monitoring,
- iv. take immediate measures to disarm all paramilitary groups in East Timor and ensure that those responsible be brought to trial and sanctioned in accordance with international human rights standards ;
- v. ensure guarantees of non-repetition of the human rights violations ;
- vi. ensure in all circumstances respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with national laws and international human rights standards;

Addresses

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Diplomatic representatives of Indonesia in your country

Geneva, April 12 1999

Kindly inform the International Secretariat of any action undertaken quoting the code of this appeal in your reply